

growth of the relative share of Roma has been observed (Applications 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16) in all parts of the country. The trend of increasing of Roma population number in the above mentioned territories continues. The highest relative share of Roma (over 15% of the total population) and the highest growth in number of municipalities with such a relative share (from 10 in 1992 to 40 by 2011) has been detected in the South Dobrudzha region (Kaynardzha, Dobrich, Nikola Kozlevo and Kavarna), in Northwestern Bulgaria (Belogradchik, Chuprene, Ruzhintsi, Lom, Valchedram, Yakimovo, Brusartsi, Medkovets, Berkovitsa, Varshets), in the Central Sub-Balkan valleys region (Tvarditsa, Maglizh, Gurkovo, Nikolaevo), in the Eastern Stara Planina and Predbalkan region (Varbitsa, Kotel, Antonovo), in some municipalities in Strandzha-Sakar region (Straldzha, Sredets), in the area of Pravets, Yablanitsa and Lukovit, and in some other municipalities in various parts of the country, such as Tran, Lybimets, Simeonovgrad, Brezovo, Vetovo, Borovo, Provadia, Perushtitsa, Krichim, Rakitovo, Lesichovo and Ihtiman.

Until the beginning of the 1950s the share of Roma living in urban settlements was higher than the shares of the Bulgarian and the Turkish urban population (Fig. 24, 25, 26, Table 22). Since the end of WW II, a clear trend of growing concentration of Roma in urban settlements has been observed, as a result of the higher migration rate of the Roma on one hand, and because of granting urban status to many settlements with a large number of Roma, on the other. By the end of the discussed period, nearly half of the Roma population in the country resides in urban settlements, which makes the Roma ethnic group less urbanized than the Bulgarian, but more urbanized than the Turkish ethnic group, exceeding its urban population by 10 percentage points. In recent years, intensification of migration towards urban settlements is being observed – Roma move to cities in search of a way out of the heavy economic crisis and the rising unemployment. The concentration of Roma is quite visible in the large cities - nearly half of the urban Roma population resides in urban settlements with population of over 10 thousand people.

As as far as the structure of the settlements according to the share of Roma is concerned, two periods can be outlined:

Till the beginning of the 1990s – a period when the settlements with low relative share of Roma (less than 10 % of the total population) represent a significant share (over 85 %) of the settlements with presence of Roma, where as much as 65 % of all Roma people resided. (Fig. 15, 16);

Those settlements are distributed evenly across the territory (Applications 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35).

Till the beginning of the 1990s, the settlements with relatively significant share of Roma (10-30 % of the total population) were mostly concentrated in Northeastern Bulgaria and in particular – the Ludogorie region, Eastern Stara Planina and the Predbalkan region, where some 70% of all settlements of that group (share of Roma 10-30 %) were located. Other areas of distribution of settlements of the same group (till 1989) are the Pazardhik-Plovdiv Field and the Eastern Sub-Balkan valleys region. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the number of settlements in that category has been growing, as well as their territorial distribution - in Northwestern